

**Barrington** - *The following statement can be attributed to Congresswoman Melissa Bean:*

Like many who knew her around Lake County and Illinois, I'm saddened at the loss of State Senator Adeline Geo-Karis. She was a great leader and will be missed.

I was proud to know and work with Sen. Geo-Karis before she retired. In celebration of her life, and in recognition of the inspiration she provided to me and others who followed her into public service, I will be submitting the following statement on the floor of the U.S. Congress:

Mr. Speaker, upon the occasion of her passing, I rise today to celebrate the life and achievements of Illinois State Senator Adeline Geo-Karis, a true political pioneer who dedicated her life to serving the people of Illinois.

She was a woman in leadership when there weren't any others. She broke through all the barriers, as the only woman in her graduating class at DePaul University Law School, as a lieutenant-commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, as the state's first female assistant state's attorney, and the first woman elected to the Illinois General Assembly from Lake County.

Through more than three decades of service in the Illinois General Assembly, Senator Geo-Karis spearheaded successful efforts to cut crime and promote alternative energy use. She was a tireless advocate for senior citizens and a longtime champion of the disabled. She brought constituent service to new heights and set the bar for other elected officials in the state of Illinois.

She served with distinction as the mayor of Zion and as an immigrant from Greece, she was an inspiring example of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Geo-Karis has served her district, state, and country with exemplary dedication and commitment. Her thirty-four years of outstanding public service ensure that her legacy will be remembered.

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